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Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 12:48 PM
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Cc: DiNatale, Margaret (DPH); Han, Linda (DPH)
Subject: Thermometer Calibration Verification QA SOP 016

The new Thermometer Calibration Verification QA SOP 016 is now available on \\dph-sli-fs2\shared\Public\Quality Assurance\QA SOPs. All CLIA certified labs must begin using this SOP and remove all copies of individual thermometer calibration currently in use. This new SOP **does NOT** use averaged temperature readings. In updating this SOP, various references were checked regarding the use of averaged temperatures during thermometer calibration, and the only place averages mentioned at all was in Dr. George's 1995 thermometer procedure. The following changes are included:

- Record each of the 3 readings for both the NIST and Test thermometers on the Thermometer Calibration Verification Worksheet (Attachment A).
- The thermometer calibration is considered to be verified if at least 2 of 3 readings of the TEST thermometer are within $\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ of the corresponding NIST reading. Laboratories may apply more stringent tolerance criteria (for example, $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$) depending on the temperature accuracy required for a particular test or storage unit.

The worksheet was also modified to reflect these changes and is included in the SOP. Laboratory supervisors must ensure that staff are aware of this change to the procedure. Training can be documented using the Training Documentation worksheet included in QA SOP 013 as Attachment #3.

Please call me if you have any questions. I appreciate everyone's patience in getting this SOP in place.

Thanks...Dina